

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-36 are pending. Following entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 23-29 will be pending.

Objection to Claim 31

The Examiner objects to Claim 31 due to an informality. The applicant has canceled Claim 31, rendering the objection moot.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner rejected Fig. 1, alleging Fig. 1 should be designated by a legend such as “prior art,” since the figure does not depict any inventive aspects of the present invention. By this Amendment and Response, the applicant has amended Fig. 1 to add the legend “prior art.”

Rejections to the Specification

The Examiner alleged the specification failed to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter claimed in claims 32 or 36. Although the applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s assertion, the applicant has cancelled claims 32 and 36 to permit speedy issuance of the present case. The applicant reserves the right to later prosecute claims 32 and/or 36, as originally filed, in a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §112

The Examiner objected to claims 32 and 36 under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as not properly enabled by the specification. The applicant has canceled claims 32 and 36, thereby eliminating the basis for the Examiner’s rejection. The applicant, however, respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s assertion and reserves the right to prosecute these claims, as originally filed, in a later continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 30, 31, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,690,159 to Sherry (the “Sherry reference”) in view of a web page entitled “Snaps, Spring Snaps, Snap Hooks,” cited by the applicant. Although the applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s rejection, claims 1-12, 30, 31, and 33-35 have been canceled to permit the present application to issue. The applicant reserves the right

to prosecute these claims as originally filed in a later continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application.

The Examiner further rejected claims 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the Sherry reference in view of a web page entitled "Bolt Snaps, O-Rings, D-Rings, Tri-Rings, Snap Hooks," also cited by applicant. Again, although the applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection, the applicant hereby cancels claims 13-22 to permit the present application to more speedily issue. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claims 13-22 in a later filed continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 23-29.

Conclusion

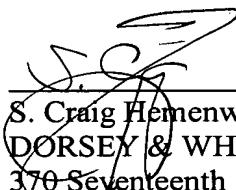
After entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 23-29 will be the sole claims pending in the present application. As noted above, the Examiner indicated claims 23-29 were allowable in his 25 March 2004 Office action. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests issuance of the Notice of Allowance as soon as practicable.

The Assignee believes no further petitions or fees are required. Should any such petitions or fees be necessary, however, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

Should any issues remain, the Examiner feels may be resolved by telephone conference, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 303-629-3400.

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Respectfully submitted,


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